

Radio Program Log  
of

Marian and Jim Jordan  
#2

The Smith Family  
1927-1932

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Historic Radio Recordings  
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THE SMITH FAMILY

Radio Program Log 1929 to 1932

THE SMITH FAMILY is one of several early Marian and Jim Jordan radio success stories virtually unknown was to trace who recall FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY. Yet the SMITH FAMILY was a steady breadwinner for the Jordans in their earlier radio years. At the same time the Jordans were active in vaudeville, four days per week where the "big money" still was.

In a May 1980 interview Jim Jordan compared the style and format of this program with another series that also focused on an upper middle class family, well-remembered by those over 40 today as ONE MAN'S FAMILY. Leading characters of THE SMITH FAMILY, included Jim Jordan as Joe Fitzgerald, a prize-fighting boy-friend of Irene Smith (Thora Martins), Marian Jordan as Mrs. Nora Smith, P.G.B. "Bud" Morris as Ed Smith, Daisy Dugan as Betty Smith, Joe Smith as Henry Marshall, Betty's piano teacher and Edwin Dellridge, announcer and tenor. Later, Little Joe Warner played as Morris Rosenberg, Betty Smith's sweetheart, and Arthur Wellington was replaced by "Bud" Morris when the program moved to WMAQ.

This family-oriented program premiered at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, 1929 over WENR. Each thirty-minute program was repeated on a week night at 9:00 p.m. first on Wednesdays and later on Mondays. THE SMITH FAMILY remained in this schedule pattern as a local broadcast until its 83rd program when it was switched to WMAQ-NBC on March 4, 1931. It was this same week that the Jordans' SMACKOUT premiered on NBC and soon after they joined FARMER RUSK in its first WMAQ program.

Through the loan of personal scrapbooks by Jim Jordan, it was learned that in March of 1929, at approximately the 30th program, the SMITH FAMILY picked up a sponsor, The National Tea Company advertising themselves as "Quality Grocers of the Middle West".

THE SMITH FAMILY continued for 156 broadcasts through April 3, 1932 when the stars of this family performed their last "home sketch" that Sunday evening. Carlton E. Morse's ONE MAN'S FAMILY premiered four weeks later on the West Coast, April 29, 1932, and continued successfully through May 8, 1932, exactly three months before Marian and Jim's FIBBER McGEE AND MOLLY would sign off the air, forever.

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Sources: "Chicago Daily News" microfilms, logs and articles from the daily radio features page, loaned by the University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois; 10-01-28 to 5-30-32.

Personal Interview: Jim Jordan, at his home, Saturday, May 1980, by Tom Price.

SMITH FAMILY - 1929

WENR (local)

Pgm #	Title	Day	Month & #	Time of Day	Notes
1	Smith Family-Sketch	Sun.	6/ 9	5:00-5:30 p.m.	Wednesday reenactment
1r	"	W	12	9:00-9:30	
2	"	Sun	16	5:00-5:30	
2r	"	W	19	9:00-9:30	
3	"	Sun	23	5:00-5:30	
3r	"	W	26	9:00-9:30	
4	"	Sun	30	5:00-5:30	
4r	"	W	7/ 3	9:00-9:30	
5	"	Sun	6	5:00-5:30	
5r	"	W	9	9:00-9:30	
6	"	Sun	13	5:00-5:30	
6r	"	W	16	9:00-9:30	
7	"	Sun	21	5:00-5:30	
7r	"	W	24	9:00-9:30	
8	"	Sun	28	5:00-5:30	
8r	"	W	31	9:00-9:30	
	None	Sun	8/ 4		Choir
		W	7		"
	None	Sun	11		"
		W	14		"
	None	Sun	18		"
		W	21		"
	None	Sun	25		"
		W	28		"
	None	Sun	9/ 1		"
		W	4		"
	None	Sun	8		"
		W	11		"
	None	Sun	15		"
		W	18		"
9	Smith Family-Sketch	Sun	22	5:00-5:30	
9r	"	W	25	9:00-9:30	
10	"	Sun	29	5:00-5:30	
10r	"	W	10/ 2	9:00-9:30	
11	"	Sun	6	5:00-5:30	
11r	"	W	9	9:00-9:30	
12	"	Sun	13	5:00-5:30	
12r	"	W	16	9:00-9:30	
13	"	Sun	20	5:00-5:30	
13r	"	W	23	9:00-9:30	
14	"	Sun	27	5:00-5:30	
14r	"	W	30	9:00-9:30	
15	"	Sun	11/ 3	5:00-5:30	
15r	"	W	6	9:00-9:30	
16	"	Sun	10	5:00-5:50	
16r	"	W	13	9:00-9:30	
17	"	Sun	17	5:00-5:30	
17r	"	W	20	9:00-9:30	

SMITH FAMILY - 1929/1930 (continued)

WENR (local)

Pgm #	Title	Day	Month & #	Time of Day	Notes
18	Smith Family-Sketch	Sun	11/24	5:00-5:30	
18r	"	W	27	9:00-9:30	
19	"	Sun	12/ 1	5:00-5:30	
19r	"	W	4	9:00-9:30	
	None	Sun	8	5:00-5:30	Last choir
	"	W	11	9:00-9:30	
20	"	Sun	15	5:00-5:30	
20r	"	W	18	9:00-9:30	
21	"	Sun	22	5:00-5:30	
21r	"	W	25	9:00-9:30	
22	"	Sun	29	5:00-5:30	
22r	"	W	1/ 1	9:00-9:30	
23	"	1 Sun	5	5:00-5:30	
23r	"	W	8	9:00-9:30	
24	"	Sun	11	5:00-5:30	
24r	"	W	14	9:00-9:30	
25	"	Sun	19	5:00-5:30	
25r	"	W	22	9:00-9:30	
26	"	Sun	26	5:00-5:30	
26r	"	W	29	9:00-9:30	
27	"	Sun	2/ 2	5:00-5:30	
27r	"	W	5	9:00-9:30	
28	"	Sun	9	5:00-5:30	
28r	"	W	12	9:00-9:30	
29	"	Sun	16	5:00-5:30	
29r	"	W	19	9:00-9:30	
30	"	Sun	23	5:00-5:30	
30r	"	M	24	9:00-9:30	Reenactment day change
31	"	Sun	3/ 2	5:00-5:30	
31r	"	M	3	9:00-9:30	
32	"	Sun	9	5:00-5:30	
32r	"	M	10	9:00-9:30	
33	"	Sun	16	5:00-5:30	
33r	"	M	17	9:00-9:30	
34	"	Sun	23	5:00-5:30	
34r	"	M	24	9:00-9:30	
35	"	Sun	30	5:00-5:30	
35r	"	M	31	9:00-9:30	
36	"	Sun	4/ 6	5:00-5:30	
36r	"	M	7	9:00-9:30	
37	"	Sun	13	5:00-5:30	
37r	"	M	14	9:00-9:30	
38	"	Sun	20	5:00-5:30	
38r	"	M	21	9:00-9:30	
39	"	Sun	27	5:00-5:30	
39r	"	M	28	9:00-9:30	
40	"	Sun	5/ 4	5:00-5:30	
40r	"	M	5	9:00-9:30	

SMITH FAMILY - 1930 (continued)

WENR (local)

Pgm #	Title	Day	Month & #	Time of Day	Notes
41	Smith Family-Sketch	Sun	5/11	5:00-5:30	
41r	"	M	12	9:00-9:30	
42	"	Sun	18	5:00-5:30	
42r	"	M	19	9:00-9:30	
43	"	Sun	25	5:00-5:30	
43r	"	M	26	9:00-9:30	
44	"	Sun	6/ 1	5:00-5:30	
44r	"	M	2	9:00-9:30	
45	"	Sun	8	5:00-5:30	
45r	"	M	9	9:00-9:30	
46	"	Sun	15	5:00-5:30	
46r	"	M	16	9:00-9:30	
47	"	Sun	22	5:00-5:30	
47r	"	M	23	9:00-9:30	
48	"	Sun	29	5:00-5:30	
48r	"	M	30	9:00-9:30	
49	"	Sun	7/ 6	5:00-5:30	
49r	"	M	7	9:00-9:30	
50	"	Sun	13	5:00-5:30	
50r	"	M	14	9:00-9:30	
51	"	Sun	20	5:00-5:30	
51r	"	M	21	9:00-9:30	
52	"	Sun	27	5:00-5:30	
52r	"	M	28	9:00-9:30	
53	"	Sun	8/ 3	5:00-5:30	
53r	"	M	4	9:00-9:30	
54	"	Sun	10	5:00-5:30	
54r	"	M	11	9:00-9:30	
55	"	Sun	17	5:00-5:30	
55r	"	M	18	9:00-9:30	
56	"	Sun	24	5:00-5:30	
56r	"	M	25	9:00-9:30	
57	"	Sun	31	5:00-5:30	
57r	"	M	9/ 1	9:00-9:30	
58	"	Sun	7	5:00-5:30	
58r	"	M	8	9:00-9:30	
59	"	Sun	14	5:00-5:30	
59r	"	M	15	9:00-9:30	
60	"	Sun	21	5:00-5:30	
60r	"	M	22	9:00-9:30	
61	"	Sun	28	5:00-5:30	
61r	"	M	29	9:00-9:30	
62	"	Sun	10/ 5	5:00-5:30	
62r	"	M	6	9:00-9:30	
63	"	Sun	12	5:00-5:30	
63r	"	M	13	9:00-9:30	
64	"	Sun	19	5:00-5:30	
64r	"	M	20	9:00-9:30	

SMITH FAMILY - 1930/1931 (continued)

WENR (local)

Pgm #	Title	Day	Month & #	Time of Day	Notes
65	Smith Family Sketch	Sun.	10/26	5:00-5:30	
65r	"	M	27	9:00-9:30	
66	"	Sun	11/ 2	5:00-5:30	
66r	"	M	3	9:00-9:30	
67	"	Sun	9	5:00-5:30	
67r	"	M	10	9:00-9:30	
68	"	Sun	16	5:00-5:30	
68r	"	M	17	9:00-9:30	
69	"	Sun	23	5:00-5:30	
69r	"	M	24	9:00-9:30	
70	"	Sun	30	5:00-5:30	
70r	"	M	12/ 1	9:00-9:30	
71	"	Sun	7	5:00-5:30	
71r	"	M	8	9:00-9:30	
72	"	Sun	14	5:00-5:30	
72r	"	M	15	9:00-9:30	
73	"	Sun	21	5:00-5:30	
73r	"	M	22	9:00-9:30	
74	"	Sun	28	5:00-5:30	
74r	"	M	29	9:00-9:30	
75	"	Sun	1/ 4	5:00-5:30	
75r	"	M	5	9:00-9:30	
76	"	Sun	11	5:00-5:30	
76r	"	M	12	9:00-9:30	
77	"	Sun	18	5:00-5:30	
77r	"	M	19	9:00-9:30	
78	"	Sun	25	5:00-5:30	
78r	"	M	26	9:00-9:30	
79	"	Sun	2/ 1	5:00-5:30	
79r	"	M	2	9:00-9:30	
80	"	Sun	8	5:00-5:30	
80 r	"	M	9	9:00-9:30	
81	"	Sun	15	5:00-5:30	
81r	"	M	16	9:00-9:30	
82	"	Sun	22	5:00-5:30	
82r	"	M	23	9:00-9:30	
83	"	Wed.	3/ 4	8:30-9:00	Premiere on NBC-Red Network: WMAQ, includ- ing time change
84	"	"	11	"	
85	"	"	18	"	
86	"	"	25	"	
87	"	"	4/ 1	"	"They're worried about love & geneology" from "Pick of the Air"
88	"	"	8	"	
89	"	"	15	"	
90	"	"	22	"	

SMITH FAMILY - 1931 (continued)

WENR (local)

Pgm #	Title	Day	Month & #	Time of Day	Notes
91	Smith Family-Sketch	W	4/29	8:30-9:00	
92	"	"	5/ 6	"	
93	"	"	13	"	
94	"	"	20	"	
95	"	"	27	"	
96	"	"	6/ 3	"	
97	"	"	10	"	
98	"	"	17	"	
99	"	"	24	"	
100	"	"	7/ 1	8:30-8:45	Day and Time Change
101	"	T	7	7:45-7:30	Day and Time Change
102	"	Sat	11	"	
103	"	T	14	"	
104	"	Sat	18	"	
105	"	T	21	"	
106	"	Sat	25	"	
107	"	T	28	"	
108	"	Sat	8/ 1	"	
109	"	T	4	"	
110	"	Sat	8	"	
111	"	T	11	"	
112	"	Sat	15	"	
113	"	T	18	"	
114	"	Sat	22	"	
115	"	T	25	"	
116	"	Sat	29	"	
117	"	T	9/ 1	"	
118	"	Sat	5	"	
119	"	T	8	"	
120	"	Sat	12	"	
121	"	T	15	"	
122	"	Sat	19	"	
123	"	T	22	"	
124	"	Sat	26	"	
125	"	T	29	"	
126	"	Sat	10/ 3	"	
127	"	T	6	"	
128	"	Sat	10	"	
129	"	T	13	"	
130	"	Sat	17	"	
131	"	T	20	"	
132	"	Sat	24	"	
133	"	T	27	"	
134	"	Sat	31	"	
135	"	Sun	11/ 8	2:00-2:30	Station, Day & Time Change: switched to WENR.
136	"	"	15	"	

SMITH FAMILY - 1931/1932 (continued)

WENR (local)

Pgm #	Title	Day	Month & #	Time of Day	Notes
137	Smith Family-Sketch	Sun.	11/22	2:00-2:30	
138	"	"	29	"	
139	"	"	12/ 6	"	
140	"	"	13	"	
141	"	"	20	"	
142	"	"	27	"	
143	"	"	1/ 3	"	
144	"	"	10	"	
145	"	"	17	"	
146	"	"	24	"	
147	"	"	31	"	
148	"	"	2/ 7	"	
149	"	"	14	"	
150	"	"	21	"	
151	"	"	28	"	
152	"	"	3/ 6	"	
153	"	"	13	"	
154	"	"	20	"	
155	"	"	27	"	
156	"	"	4/ 3	"	Final Smith Family
			10	2:00-3:00	Program
			17	"	Political Talk
			24	"	Music
			5/ 1	"	Tax Talk
					Tax Talk